
Free Press, The, 1971-

Student Newspapers

9-18-2006

The Free Press Vol. 38, Issue 2, 09-18-2006

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Carson, Angelique, "The Free Press Vol. 38, Issue 2, 09-18-2006" (2006). *Free Press, The, 1971-*. 33.
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the free press

Volume 38, Issue 2 September 18, 2006



Man killed in USM bus crash

Police chase ends in tragedy

ANGELIQUE CARSON
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Chris Yankopoulos woke up on the floor of his team's cross country bus Saturday morning having no idea what had put him there. The team was en route to its first meet of the season when a car traveling at 60 m.p.h. hit them head on without ever hitting the brakes.

Westbrook's "American Journal" reported on Thursday that the team's bus had been struck by the vehicle, who's driver was wanted on seven theft warrants and was being pursued by a police officer at about 6 a.m. Westbrook Police told the "Journal" that the driver of the car, Michael Churchill, 20, ran a red light at the intersection between Saco Street and Route 22 at an approximate speed of 60 m.p.h, before slamming into a bus carrying the 20-member team. The car with Churchill and his passenger Robert Swan, 18, of Westbrook, was dragged sideways by the bus after impact for what USM runner Chris Hopkins estimated to be about 100 feet. It finally came to a stop underneath the bus, trapping the two men inside. Churchill, died the next day at Maine Medical Center. Five members of the team sustained minor injuries including concussions, a knee injury and a back injury.

"Lots of us were trying to sleep, and all of a sudden we just got hit," said Chris Yankopoulos, a senior and

member of the team. "That's the thing that I remember the most was how hard we got hit. I fell to the floor, and a few other guys fell out of their seats or in-between them. We all just sat stunned on the bus for a second. Then we saw smoke and ran off of the bus."

The bus driver, Lawrence Churchill, 52, is being credited by Yankopoulos with taking control of the situation and bringing the bus to a stop after it was struck off course on the road and crossed both lanes. From inside the bus the team wasn't sure what had hit them because the car was out of sight, wedged underneath the bus itself.

"There was an ungodly scene," said Yankopoulos. "[The car] was a tin can accordion. The most disturbing thing was thinking, 'the driver can't be alive'. I was just in shock."

The team was asked to stay at the scene as witnesses. Hopkins was one of five teammates and two coaches who were brought to a local hospital for examination and treatment. At the time of impact he was seated on the left side of the bus, the same side that was struck by the speeding car. The captain remembers hitting his head hard against the panel of the bus. Getting off of the bus, he vomited as a result and paramedics took him to the hospital. Hopkins, his teammates and the injured coaches were released by 1 p.m. that day, shaken but safe. Coach Scott Hutchinson was sitting

in the front of the bus and suffered a minor injury when he hit his knee. He says that he quickly moved his players, telling them that there had been an accident and to get off the bus. He worried that his runners were critically injured and made sure that each of them was okay.

"The most disturbing thing was thinking, 'the driver can't be alive'. I was just in shock."

— Chris Yankopoulos

"We have a great group of young men," said Hutchinson. "We are just taking it one day at a time."

The team never made it to Connecticut. Despite the fact that a few runners weren't able to compete in their second meet last weekend, Hopkins is confident that the accident won't have a lasting negative impact on the team.

"We'll be fine no matter what," said Hopkins. "It's very emotional whenever anyone passes away in a car accident that you were involved in. It kind of threw us off course, but in the end it brought us together in terms of dealing with it. We're gonna move on and just try and move past it." ♦



PHOTO BY ROBERT LOWELL, COURTESY OF AMERICAN JOURNAL

The remains of Michael Churchill's car are towed from the scene of Saturday's accident.

Still can't jail the spirit Manning's art marched through Portland

JOEL C. THERIAULT
STAFF WRITER

Portland's Victory Garden Project organized a protest march on Friday, September 15 starting at Woodbury Campus Center and ending on Congress Street. The rally, in response to President Richard Pattenau's decision to have Thomas Manning's art exhibit, "Can't Jail The Spirit," removed from campus, boasted the banned artwork. More than fifty people participated in the march through Portland's streets.

In a statement released to the press on Tuesday, September 12, the Victory Garden Project (VGP) said, "In censoring the art show,

Pattenau is limiting campus discussion on the definition of the term political prisoner — a complete reversal from the art exhibit's original intention!"

Pattenau had previously released a statement explaining his decision. "Any reasoned discussion of ideas has been overshadowed completely by Mr. Manning's and Mr. Levasseur's criminal acts, and the pain and suffering they caused."

The artist, Thomas Manning, was found guilty of killing a New Jersey State Trooper in 1981 and is currently serving a 133-year sentence in a federal facility in West Virginia. Police associations from

see MANNING, page 2

A hate crime at USM Student threatened, chased by group

ROBYN WILEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Tuesday, September 12th on the USM Gorham campus a hate-crime was reported to the USM Police Department by a young man who reported being verbally harassed and later chased by a group of male students. He was sitting in the Brooks Dining Center with some friends, when a second group of students sat nearby and directed homophobic comments toward him. One of the

overheard statements was to the effect, "I have a gun in my car." When the student being harassed got up to leave, the perpetrators chased him outside.

"This is a type of action that needs to be condemned," said Andrew Bossie, USM student body president. "If one person or one group of students isn't safe on campus, then we all aren't safe. I think that this is outlandish."

Judie O'Malley of USM's Office of Public Affairs, voiced similar concerns.

"I've been at USM for 20 years," said O'Malley. "And in all my time here, USM has worked towards being a safe place where all students and faculty feel comfortable together. It's really unfortunate when individuals behave contrary to these goals."

The event that USM Police continue to investigate as a hate crime comes as a surprise. USM was just labeled as one of

see HATE CRIME, page 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LEAGUE

The League promoted "No One 1" in Waterville last fall.

MANNING, from page 1

New Jersey to Maine were outraged when USM announced the exhibit showcasing Manning's work was to be displayed on the walls of Woodbury. The university pulled the exhibit a week later due to the negative response from law enforcement associations.

At Tuesday's press conference, Raymond Luc Levasseur, a longtime friend and former partner of Manning's, responded to law enforcement's disapproval of the exhibit. "It's their first amendment right," said Levasseur. "They're just trying to establish an emotional right. We feel like we have the same right, and we have strong emotions about people the police have abused and controlled. Some of the media has indicated that there's only one side to this story: a homicide conviction. That's a one-dimensional media. We want to open up the discussion...about who and what is a political prisoner." He added that he was not sure if he was still invited to the university's symposium on political prisoners planned for October 4.

Levasseur was imprisoned for nearly 20 years for his part in 22 bombings and nine bank robberies in the 1970s and '80's. He collected Manning's paintings the day after USM's Art Department removed the display from the walls of Woodbury.

Protesters began to assemble at 5 p.m. at the Campus Center in

Portland. The march moved up Forest Avenue and High Street to Congress Street Square. Portland's traffic police escorted the marchers safely along the route. Drivers passing by honked their horns or shouted their approval.

Many of the marchers carried plastic-covered pieces from Manning's collection. Others carried prints of the paintings, or handmade signs and banners demonstrating their stance on free speech, artistic expression, and the right of assembly.

Several speakers were present at the Congress Street rally, including members of the Jericho Group, Portland's Victory Garden Project, and the National Lawyer's Guild. Dan "Chill Breeze" Martinez and Richard Cambridge of the Massachussettes-based performance-activist group Presente provided songs and poetry related to free speech and political activism. A buffet table was provided for the crowd, and an open mic forum followed Presente. A slideshow of Manning's art played throughout the evening.

A speaker at the open mic, Nancy Page Akres, read an alleged phone transcript of a phone conversation between her and the USM President's Office. She claimed USM backed down from threats of violence from "plants" in the system, and when



PHOTO BY JEN FELDMAN

Protestors speak out in front of Woodbury Campus Center.

she asked who she was speaking to, she was hung up on.

Marie Follayttar was among the crowd of students and faculty from USM. She was one of the students whose art was chosen to be displayed with Manning's at the Woodbury exhibit. Dan Chard, another USM student, also protested on behalf of the Victory Garden Project.

Absent from the rally was Levasseur. Mrs. Jamilla Levasseur, his wife, would only tell the Free Press that he couldn't make it, and would not comment further.

The President of the Teamsters Local 340, Jim Carson, along with two members of the union, made a presence at the protest, representing several police associations. Said Carson, "Obviously we recognize free speech, everyone has a right to do what they're going

to do, but we have an equal right to show that we don't agree with it. That's what we're doing."

Crowd reactions from the evening varied, but most agreed the assembly went quietly and were glad for an opportunity to support free speech.

Several members of Portland's police force were present. One officer told the Free Press they were only maintaining public safety, and would not comment further.

When the Free Press asked Jonah Fertig of the Victory Garden Project what the purpose of the rally was, he replied, "We just wanted to show that they still can't jail the spirit." The VGP and Levasseur plan to tour Manning's exhibit down the East Coast. ♦



COURTESY OF THE
USM POLICE DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER 7
Motor Vehicle Accident

– Property damage only. Jocelyn Potthoff, 21, arrested for operation after suspension.

Theft

– Wallet and \$18 cash stolen from victim's pants while working out at Sullivan Gym.

Lost Dog

– Jackson" was found wandering around campus and was returned to owner.

Marijuana Complaint in Gorham

– Michael Soltys, 18, summonsed for possession of a usable amount of marijuana.

crime of the week

Public Urination –
Officer saw subject urinating on the Child and Family Institute Building. Referred to Community Standards.

HATE CRIME, from page 1

the top 100 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered-friendly colleges in the United States in the nationally published Advocate College Guide, by Shane L. Windmeyer, which was published on August 15.

The book's publisher "Alyson Bookstore" describes the colleges rated as "LGBT-friendly campuses in the United States with the best programs, services and student coalitions for LGBT students."

"This event is not what USM is about," said O'Malley. "The University cares for the LGBT community. We believe it is very important to provide a welcoming working and learning environment. I'm hoping this incident is an anomaly."

Bossie noted USM's significant role in the elections last year on the Maine Discrimination Act. "This campus was a big part of the "No on 1" campaign. This event goes to show there is still a lot of work to be done in

education," said Bossie. "USM needs to step up and say this behavior is not acceptable and we will not tolerate it."

University and Police officials are by no means tolerating this event either. Not only did these young men break the USM code of behavior, but also Maine state law. According to the USM code: "USM rejects acts of discrimination or harassment based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion, veteran status, and political beliefs... All reported incidents of

alleged violations of this policy will be investigated according to University procedure."

USM Police Chief Lisa Beecher confirmed that the USM police are "actively investigating" this incident in the category of hate crimes. "We have forwarded this information to the Attorney General's Office, where there is a hate crime unit."

When asked what message he would give to the students who perpetrated this event, Bossie said, "These are real people with real feelings, and

real lives. Denouncing them because of a small part of who they are, (or who you think they are), is totally inappropriate."

Bossie hopes incidents such as this can be avoided in the future. He believes students must "band together to combat this type of behavior."

If anybody has any information pertaining to this incident, the USM Police Department asks that you contact them immediately. They can be reached by telephone at: 780-5211. ♦



This week in history
September 20, 1984:
Suicide bomber strikes US Embassy

BEIRUT, LEBANON — A member of the Islamic Jihad drove a truck loaded with over 1100lbs of powerful explosives up the main drive of the US Embassy building. The driver maneuvered through the guards' gunfire and to the front of the embassy building, where it exploded. The truck with the bomb was of the same type used by staff at the embassy, and was fitted with diplomatic plates to complete the disguise.

The blast killed at least twenty people and injured several others, including Reginald Bartholomew, the ambassador from the United States. He was buried in the rubble, and was eventually rescued by a visiting envoy, David Myers of England.

The casualties increased the body count to 301 for 1983 and 1984. Bombers had previously targeted the embassy building in April 1983, killing 61 people, and a US Marine base that killed 241 people in January 1984. The new embassy building had only been in operation for six weeks before having the front face ripped off by this recent explosion.

President Reagan told reporters that the US would not back down from terrorists. "You have to live and you have to do your best to protect yourself, but you have to know that these terrorist groups are threatening all over the world," he said. ♦

COMPILED BY JOEL C. THERIAULT

FREE

COMMUNITY

DESIGN WORKSHOP

ENVISION THE FUTURE OF REICHE COMMUNITY CENTER

Reiche School & Community Center

Saturday, Sept. 30

9am-3pm

West End Neighborhood Association

wenamaine.org

USM students swim free at Reiche. Please help! It's your future, too!

Candidate for governor disturbs the peace

Gubernatorial debate gets spicy

ERIK EISELE

STAFF WRITER

The Hannaford Lecture Hall buzzed with the chatter of attendees Thursday, September 14 when a voice boomed near the front row. At 7:55 a.m. conversation stopped and everyone's attention focused on a bearded man with a cane, a service dog and a bullhorn who turned from talking to a debate organizer to address the crowd: "This is discrimination. I'm the people's hero. They cannot exclude me from this debate, I graduated from this university."

Phillip Morris NaPier, the People's Hero had arrived.

The Environmental and Energy Technology Council of Maine invited incumbent governor Democrat John Baldacci, Green party candidate Pat LaMarche, Independent Barbara Merrill and Republican Chandler Woodcock to attend a debate at the Abromson Center to discuss environmental and energy issues. According to John Ferland, the debate organizer, the council invited only "the major candidates," which

meant that though NaPier's name will be on the November ballot, he was not invited.

"We were comfortable with these four because those are the four everybody else was following," Ferland told Maine Things Considered.

NaPier, an Air Force veteran and a former felon, ran for governor in 2002 as a write-in candidate, but this time he collected the signatures required for his name to appear on the ballot.

"I'm the only one of the five candidates to have got all the signatures I needed myself. Over 5,000 of them," NaPier said as he stood out front of the Abromson Center after being asked to leave the lecture hall by university police. "This is clearly a case of discrimination."

As the other four gubernatorial candidates debated inside, NaPier got on his bullhorn and continued to protest. After about twenty minutes the Portland

police arrived and three officers told him he could continue his protest, but he must do it quietly; his bullhorn was disturbing the peace. After asking directions to President Pattenade's office, NaPier walked away.

Inside, the other four candidates discussed environmental and energy issues from nuclear power to the condition of Maine's rivers, voicing many similar opinions. Barbara Merrill made several pointed comments about Senator Woodcock's and Governor Baldacci's voting records, taking the most aggressive stance of the candidates.

LaMarche kept the discussion light, throwing in humorous stories and making self-deprecating jokes. Baldacci and Woodcock answered matter-of-factly, their answers on topic, without acknowledgment of the other attendees.

At the end of the hour and a half debate, which was broadcast live on WMPG, the comments returned to NaPier. "Nothing any of us has said will be remembered as much as this morning's outburst," Merrill said in her closing statement.

The doors opened and people

flooded out into the Abromson Center to chat, to talk with the candidates, and to eat scones and blueberry muffins. Politics was the topic here and there, but in most circles the discussions centered on the older gentleman with the big white dog, bullhorn and beard. The Environmental and Energy Council had planned to host a debate, but the show they got was a little more exciting than they had planned. ♦



Four gubernatorial candidates discuss environmental concerns (left). The "People's Hero" addresses debate audience, prior to being escorted out of the Abromson Center by a USM police officer. (right)



PHOTOS BY JEN FELDMAN

China's Supreme Court judge at USM

Corruption remains problematic in China's judiciary

JEN FELDMAN

STAFF WRITER

Judge Jianli Song, one of the youngest members of China's Supreme People's Court, said Thursday that corruption remains a widespread problem in his nation, especially in local courts.

Song discussed China's changing justice system, speaking to a group of University of Maine Law School students and faculty. China's local court officials are susceptible to corruption, Song explained, because they depend on local governments for funding.

Responding to an audience question, Song underscored the threat corruption poses, stating, "Judges in China are appointed for life."

Song identified insufficient independent institutions, insufficient culture based on the rule of law, and a legacy of local protectionism as leading challenges to a fully independent Chinese judiciary.

Judges continue to be viewed as agents of the central government and as a result, there is popular distrust of China's courts.

Another challenge facing this economic giant is its human rights record. Though Song did not directly address international accusations of human rights abuses, he mentioned that the Chinese legal community is considering reducing the number of government death penalty cases. The move is seen as a response to international pressure.

According to Amnesty International, "[it is] estimated that at least 1,770 people were executed in China during [2005], although the true figures were believed to be much higher."

"A Chinese legal expert was recently quoted stating the figure for executions is approximately 8,000 based on information from local officials and judges, but official national statistics on the application of the death penalty remained classified as a state secret."

Human Rights Watch reported last month that, "Two of China's most prominent lawyers are currently facing prosecutions that seem to be politically motivated."

"Beijing lawyer Gao Zhisheng, an outspoken advocate of the rights of victims of government violations and abuse of power, was detained on August 15 on charges of alleged involvement in criminal activities. In 2005, authorities

stripped Gao of his right to practice law.

"On August 18, the trial of another legal activist, Chen Guangcheng, turned into a mockery of justice when his lawyers were physically assaulted and then forcibly detained by Public Security.... The court, in Yinan county, Shandong province, has charged Chen with intent to damage public property and inciting others to join him to disrupt traffic."

"In a separate incident on August 18, Yang Zaixin, one of the lawyers who attempted to attend Chen's trial, was beaten [and] placed in detention at a local police station."

Affordable access to legal services is another problem in modern day China. Legal representation is extremely expensive and simply out of reach for millions of Chinese citizens. Song noted the United States faces a similar challenge.

China, like the U.S., has an overburdened court system, each year hearing approximately 62 million criminal, civil and administrative cases.

When asked about press access to the nation's courts, Song explained that members of the media need prior permission in order to cover trials. Civilians, in contrast, have open access to most trials

as long as they show a government ID.

China has come a long way since the Cultural Revolution, but there is ample room for improvement. One such reform was introduced in 2002, when the government unveiled the National Judiciary Examination, a new test administered to all those entering the legal profession. The test replaced the nation's former bar exams and was introduced in an effort to increase the quality of candidates entering China's judicial community. Of the 360,000 people who took the exam in 2002, only 24,000, or 7% of participants, passed.

In 2005, the government announced the republic's second judicial reform plan. The goal of these reforms, Song said, was to render China's judicial system independent and its decisions free from outside pressure.

China is also sending its judges abroad to learn from other nations. Song, for example, was a recent Visiting Scholar at the University of Cambridge and is currently a "Visiting Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania doing research on international commercial arbitration."



Judge Song on reforms and challenges in China's judiciary.

PHOTO BY JEN FELDMAN

Looking at China's judiciary future, Song said that China needed more effective case management, better-trained professionals and greater transparency. China's future looks bright. Judge Song emphasized that in recent years China's dialogue with "the international community has deepened and widened."

China is now an active player on the international scene. Consider its 2001 induction into the World Trade Organization – an induction that followed 15 years of negotiations, the longest in W.T.O. history. ♦

Letter from the editor

Is USM regressing?

ANGELIQUE CARSON
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

What an intense week. I'm dizzy. Keeping your finger on the pulse is our newspaper's basic premise. At the Free Press, we spend our mornings, days, and nights like bedside nurses taking vital signs every half hour. Between a fatal accident involving the cross country team, a Gubernatorial debate that ended in one candidate being escorted out by police, and a protest march directed against USM administration, the heart of this campus felt more like cardiac arrest than a steady beat.

But something else happened this week that made me sick. A student

on the Gorham campus was allegedly victimized by a group of his peers. He sat in Books Dining Hall eating a meal with some friends when students at a nearby table made homophobic comments, and threatened him with a gun, before chasing him out of the dining hall.

At USM? This really happened? I thought that I belonged to a campus that prided itself on issues of acceptance, tolerance and diversity. I thought that our school valued having the perspective of a LGTB community and the benefits that having a heterogenous



population can provide. I thought I remembered "No on 1" rallies and open forums put on by LGBTQ studies. I remember sitting at the forum, listening to a student who identified as transgendered speak and thinking about how nice it was that the room was full of interested students who wanted to hear his perspective. USM felt like a bubble of acceptance and freedom to live however we want to and still be respected as an essential ingredient to the mix of people that is our student body.

And then Tuesday, a student was threatened with a gun and chased out of his own campus dining hall by some group of students who felt it necessary to terrorize one of their own. Imagine how that student felt as he caught

his breath after running scared from peers, neighbors of his who wanted to hurt him because of who they perceived him to be. Imagine being on the Gorham campus and running for your life.

What happened here?

Is this a wake-up call? Is USM's code to "reject acts of discrimination based on sexual orientation" (among other things) just an ideal that we can't live up to?

Maybe this is one isolated incident that shouldn't illicit red flags. But maybe we should look at the type of school, the type of students, the type of people that we want to be.

Maybe we're not as evolved as we thought we were. Are you okay with that? I know I'm not. ♦

The Free Press welcomes Letters to the editor. Letters must be submitted electronically, include the author's full name, school year or relationship to USM, phone number for verification and may not exceed 350 words without prior approval from the Executive Editor. Anonymous and/or illegible submissions will not be published. The deadline for all submissions is Thursday at 4 p.m. preceding the week of publication.

Send submissions to freepress@maine.edu

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This column is funny
Book burnin'

JAKE CHRISTIE
COLUMNIST

This Column is Funny is a weekly look at the least important parts of college life.

Every decade or so, we are faced, as a generation, with a gravely important issue. When our parents were in college, they had to take sides and stand up for their beliefs on everything from the Civil Rights movement to the Vietnam War, the Watergate scandal to the Cold War. As much as we'd like to think the world has become a nicer place since then, there are issues even today that we have to stand up and fight about. With everything that's going on in the world today, I think it's pretty obvious what I'm talking about.

Just when we thought we were safe, they went and changed Facebook.

If you don't know what Facebook is, I'll offer a quick explanation, but you should probably consider dropping out of school right away. I mean, Facebook isn't all that important in the grand scheme of things, but if you haven't heard about it, your skills of observation are somewhere between a blind horse and a dead horse. On the bright side, I think they're hiring at Denny's.

Facebook.com is a social networking site created in early 2004 by Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg. It allows college students to

create profiles and peruse the profiles of others, making "friends" and sending messages. If you're familiar with MySpace, it's the same kind of thing but exclusive to people in college, and Facebook works correctly more than 4.3% of the time. That's about it. Welcome to the internet.

In the last couple of years, Facebook has blown up to monstrous proportions. There are more than 7.5 million profiles representing students from more than 2000 colleges. Checking the Facebook (also known as "Facebooking" and "creepy") takes up approximately half of the free time in any given student's day. Just knowing that it's there, keeping tabs on your friends and proclaiming the name and favorite movie of that hot girl in your Soc 101 class (Kimberly, The Notebook), adds some measure of comfort to college life.

At the start of this school year, however, Facebook decided that it was time to change their site drastically. They added a bunch of flashy bells and whistles, like a "News Feed" that tracks your friends' actions and a streamlined interface. If the old Facebook was comfortable like an old worn-in couch, the new Facebook is like a hard, badly-built chair that watches you while you shower, completely silent save for its heavy breathing. And it's pissing people off.

Dozens of groups calling for the complete and total annihilation of Facebook's new features sprang up in

the span of a couple days. People called for drastic action – petitions, boycotts! Facebook made the fatal mistake of treading on us, which we have repeatedly, as Americans, confessed that we aren't really cool with. Facebookers all over the country fought back.

I, meanwhile, sat back and played with my brother's Xbox.

You see, complaining about Facebook is a lot like arguing about which episode of The Simple Life is the best; it's completely unnecessary and, at times, a little nauseating. I hate to break it to you, but if you're willing to take time out of your day to set terms with a website where thousands of people think Old School is an important part of cinema history, you're taking the internet too seriously.

The changes made to Facebook are not – and I can't be totally certain of this – the end of the world as we know it. Snow will still fall this winter. The world will still turn. That drunken message you sent your ex will still, without fail, get through before you can unsend it. Maybe it's time for you to take a few days off from Facebook, turn off your computer, and take a look at the bright world around you.

I'm pretty sure The Notebook is on cable this weekend. ♦

Jake Christie is a humor writer with credits at various websites. He can be reached at jason.christie@maine.edu or at www.JakeChristie.com.

Is something bothering
you?
Tell us about it.

Are you angry?
We want to hear from
you.

This is your paper.

Write to us and share
your thoughts with
other students.



Letters to the editor

A grammar lesson

My name is Catherine and I'm crazy nuts about correct grammar and spelling. I don't understand how something like 'lawLaw enforcement' can make it through a spell check. I graduated from USM as an English major and find this sort of thing in my school's paper a little embarrassing. Do you guys need proof-readers?

Catherine Johnson
USM Graduate

Have you seen my country?

I am a college student living in a lost country. I live in a country whose foreign policy is based on combatting enemies rather than maintaining international stability. Since the Cold War has ended, we are no longer clear on who those enemies are – we think they are probably brown, that they live in caves, and that they ride airplanes. We go bombing in search of these enemies, but so far, we have yet to find them- we have killed Afghani children by dropping crates of food on their heads, we have leveled ancient cities and looted entire cultural histories, but we still have not discovered the ever-elusive "threat to national security." We are a nation wandering in the desert searching for new meaning to an out-dated mode of "diplomacy," (and I use that word in the loosest sense,) when in fact we should be searching for a new way to co-exist in an increasingly integrated world.

We are not lost because of a lack of leadership, we are lost because our leaders operate under an old and crumbling vision of what it means to be a world power. Our generation is poised to inherit a country that is only prepared to fight shadows, and has no capacity to fight AIDS or genocide. A threat only becomes a threat when we treat it as such- perhaps it is time for us to identify the real threats to global stability. As another member of my generation has said, you can bomb the world to pieces, but you can't bomb the world to peace.

Julia Davidson
Junior

Hidden gem

I was just noticing the Guide to Campus Hotspots in the Free Press seems to have inadvertently left the Sullivan Complex off the Portland Campus as a hotspot. If we aren't a hotspot we'd certainly like to be.

Skip Cadigan
Fitness Center Manager

ALEX STEED
COLUMNIST

These days Are we safer five years later?

My age, 23, puts me at 18 when the planes hit the twin towers. While I watched the them burning on television my father called me. "When they call you [for the draft], join the Navy," he said, because it seemed so sure that the entire world would soon be at war. I began my fresh, adult life paying very close attention to what we would soon call the war on terror. The commemoration of the September 11th attacks last week had me, and everyone else, asking if the United States is any safer now than it was five years ago.

This year on 9/11 President Bush asserted, "The safety of America depends on the outcome of the battle in the streets of Baghdad."

On just one day last week in Iraq, arguably America's future flowerbed of terrorist attackers, 65 bodies were found "tortured, shot and dumped," according to the Associated Press. Death squads, militias and gangs

are running wild through the country. If the chaos and civil war in Iraq are any indication of how safe we are, we have reason to worry.

Some say that you can rest assured. The Department of Homeland Security website asserts that, "Today, we are safer, but we are not yet safe." The president echoed this in his speech last week, despite the growing chaos in Iraq. Americans aren't buying any of this rhetoric, though. According to a CBS News/"New York Times" poll, more Americans feel that America is in more danger now than did five years ago.

A few months back, I saw a political cartoon that showed a US plane dropping bombs and each bomb read "terrorist seed." I believe that there is some truth in the cartoon, though our bombs alone aren't sewing the seed for future terrorist attacks. National ignorance and arrogance is also responsible. In Rolling Stone last week, writer Matt Taibbi suggests, "We now hang our heads when we re-

member that dark day, kneel before the appropriate icons (Pat Tillman, firefighters, the Flight 93 passengers) at the appropriate times, and periodically make sure to remember the Big Lesson, a.k.a. anything can happen, even to those such as us." He argues that it is this celebratory idolatry; our reducing September 11th to symbols and emotions, that is making the country a more dangerous place.

"In this light one could almost view our response to 9/11 as a triumph of the American system," said Taibbi. "If nineteen knife-wielding lunatics blowing a hole in the middle of Manhattan on international television can't even temporarily knock us out of 'What, me worry?' mode, you have to feel pretty good about our future chances for remaining just as cheerfully numb through even a more serious disruption of our fantasy existence."

The United States is more dangerous than it was five years ago, as the citizen has forfeited decision-making regarding foreign

policy to politicians alone. On Sunday, September 10th, the Vice President insisted that despite the many mistakes the administration has made in Iraq, and despite the growing chaos (that wasn't there before we arrived, and on which our safety hinges), we did the right thing and he would do it again. On September 11th, the President rhetorically propelled the country further into war against an ambiguous enemy without suggesting any option other than blowing them to hell.

And in our homes, we sat quietly.

Now our reckless foreign policy breeds more anarchy chaos abroad, on which our safety does, in fact, hinge. We are in a more dangerous position now than we were five years ago because we have not yet demanded a dramatic and necessary change. ♦



The jelly donut series

The Iranian crisis

DAVID A. BROWN
COLUMNIST



Sometimes I am encouraged by perceived progress in our State department's relationship to the great 'otherness' that is the rest of the world. The relaxing of sanctions imposed on Libya, a commitment to dialogue with North Korea (DPRK), good relations with China and Russia are but a few examples of this trend.

But then I turn the page and read about rhetorical escalation with Iran and Venezuela, or the building of a fence along our border with Mexico. What is one supposed to conclude from such conflicting messages? We seem to be caught somewhere between being realists and idealists, halfway between isolation and globalism. We are creating difficult, tense relationships with those countries that have vast natural resource reserves, ones we will become increasingly dependent on as time progresses. So what good does it do us to act like this?

Let's take a look at Iran: Popular revolutionary government since 1979, theocratic leadership, and a signatory member of the Nuclear Arms Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Iran has acted on its internationally granted right, in accord with the NPT, to de-

velop a peaceful nuclear power program. So far they have enriched Uranium to 3.9%, a far cry from the 80-90% required for nuclear weapons. The

International Atomic Agency (IAEA) and its leader M. El Baradai have declared that there is no conclusive evidence that Iran is preparing weapons development. They have, by the way, endorsed a path of incentive diplomacy to alleviate the tension, rather than endorsing U.S. favored punitive sanctions.

We should not however, in all this rhetoric, lose sight of what is really going on here. Iranians have not simply chosen this moment to rear their head and begin to flex muscle. They have done so because America destroyed the regional balance of power by invading Iraq, a country which had for sometime kept Iran in check. Neither side is able to put the other in mate. Not only that, but America got itself bogged down. This has created a power vacuum in the region and Iran is taking the steps to fill it.

There is a possibility, in this environment, that they could develop the bomb, but it is not a real threat at this time, nor can we conclusively prove it. Certainly having a bomb would go a long way in

giving Iran that pre-eminence. But the bomb is not the only road for Iran to gain this regional stature, and considering the time required for bomb construction, it might not be the most practical. All Iran needs to do, in order to get at least the popular support of the region, is be seen as able to stand up to American and Western influence.

With a measure of control over oil prices, and appeal to a vast regional and global Islamic population, we should be treading very lightly. We do not need to be weak, or appease them if there is a real threat of Iran going on the offensive, but we are not doing ourselves any favors by exaggerating our Congressional reports on the dangers posed by their nuclear program. This kind of behavior was exhibited before the Iraq invasion and has caused major headaches for the administration.

The natural reaction to aggression (i.e. punitive sanctions) is to tense up, tighten the grip, not open up and create more transparency in one's nuclear program. With that in mind, would our punitive stance not push Iran towards developing the bomb, rather than away? They may see it as the only way to command our attention, and that is dangerous but avoidable through a policy of constructive engagement. ♦

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Video Tribute for Kathy Lasky.

Come share your memories on Friday, September 27, 6-8 p.m.,
in Luther Bonney Auditorium. Light refreshments will be provided.

Student interviews for video tribute on Lasky's life will be conducted on
Tuesday, Sept. 19, 4:30-6:30, and Thursday, Sept. 21, 10-12pm, at Glickman library, Otis Room 714.

Army of Shadows

American debut of 1969 French masterpiece



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JEAN-PIERRE MELVILLE
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RELEASED IN
THE U. S.

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10 Exchange St, Portland
Wed-Sat 2:15, 6:45; Sun. 12, Sun-Tue. 4:30, 9

SOURCE: WWW.FIALTOPICTURES.COM

CHARLES HOBBY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Although it's been 35 years since its original release in France, *L'Armée des Ombres* (Army of Shadows), has been sent across the sea to American audiences. It was completely worth the wait.

Jean-Pierre Melville, French director of the 50s and 60s, was the master of the "gangster" genre, a style of film that mimicked American pulp and detective stories. Melville managed to create a paradigm of the genre, directing some of the most well known gangster films. Hidden between two of his most known pieces, "Le Samourai" (The Godson) (1967) and "Le Cercle Rouge" (The Red Circle) (1970), came a variant from his normal *modus operandi* with "Army of Shadows" (1969).

The film follows a small resistance band in France during World War II. Philippe Gerbier, perfectly acted by the stoic Lina Ventura, leads them as they are forced into the most dangerous and desperate acts to fight against their invaders. This film is a bit unusual in that it does not try to captivate us by blasting us into one single event in World War II history. *Army of Shadows* lingers on the war, almost as a year in the life of the French resistance. We see their every mission whether it be to kill an informer, deliver crucial equipment, or attempt rescue missions.

The film seems more like a connected series of vignettes with clear breaking points. More importantly, it beautifully shows the metamorphosis of each charac-

ter, allowing them to slowly change with each assignment.

General Sherman once said, "war is hell," though not because of all the killing, but how it ruins those who remain alive. *Army of Shadows* brutally shows how with each secret act, a piece of their humanity is etched away.

This is not a typical war movie. Unlike most, especially those spat out of Hollywood, there are no famous historic battles with huge gun fights or explosions that take up the entire screen. In fact, the gunshots and Nazis are hardly seen, making only a cameo appearance. This actually heightens the film's realistic quality and intensity. We're shown the war from a different angle. This war is fought in the shadows by an army that scurries through the streets. With perfect use of silence and a drab, brooding color palate, Melville has created a film that manages to be brutally intense without any of the typical war-genre motifs; he has created a wholly believable washed-out world of silent misery and hidden sorrows.

As in his early gangster pieces, Melville has once again created a band of thieves going against the police. He seems to like these people not just for the charm of the stories they contain, but because of the interesting ideas that surface with them. Melville seemed enamored by the idea of honor amongst thieves, the code that kept criminals together. He loved betrayal, revenge, and atonement.

His films center not on plot, but on the characters themselves and how the moments of their lives make them who they become. The characters become human, as they desperately cling to honor and futilely grasp at love in their hopeless lives. Melville certainly captures the attention and heart of the audience with a powerful authenticity that makes "Army of Shadows" seem much more like a documentary than fiction. ♦



Don't stay home

Things to do this week instead of staring at your dorm room walls.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Hip-Hop Open Mic Night / 9pm / The Big Easy / 55 Market St. / \$2 / 21+ / 775-2266

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Drawings and Paintings by William E. Thon / 11am-5pm / June Fitzpatrick Gallery at MECA / 522 Congress St. / 879-5742

DJs Moshe and Mr. Dereloid / 9pm-1am / The White Heart / 551 Congress St. / 21+ / 828-1900

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Open Mic Comedy / 8pm / Acoustic Coffee / 32 Danforth St. / 774-0404

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Little Memphis Blues Orchestra / 9pm / Asylum / 121 Center St. / \$17 / 21+ / 772-8274

Irish Music with the Napper Tandies / 7 p.m. / RIRA / 72 Commercial St. / 761-4446

Black Swan and Lewis & Clark psychedelic folk music / 8 p.m. / Strange Maine / 576 Congress Street / 771-9997

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Comedy Jam with Chris Coxen / 7:30 p.m. / Liquid Blue / 440 Fore St. / \$5 / 21+ / 615-4079

Chronic Funk / 9 p.m. / Bull Feeney's / 375 Fore St. / 21+ / 773-7210

An Evening of the **World's Best Short Films** presented by Asbury Shorts of New York / 7:30 p.m. / Space / 538 Congress St. / all ages

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Army of Shadows / 1969 French film / 2:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. / The Movies on Exchange / 10 Exchange St. / \$7 / 772-8041

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Hip-Hop with Atmosphere / 9 p.m. / Asylum / 121 Center St. / \$18.50 / 21+ / 772-8274

Jazz Breakfast with Tracy Moore / 10:30 a.m. / Portland Museum of Art / 7 Congress Square / free with admission / 775-6418

COMPILED BY ARTHUR MOSEN

usmfreepress.org

Grind showcases USM talent over coffee

WADE LINEBAUGH
STAFF WRITER

Just off campus on 18 South Street, The Gorham Grind is a comfortable, colorful, community-oriented coffeehouse where customers can not only drink coffee and get free wireless access, but also see USM artists' and musicians' work. Every Friday from 5-7 p.m. the shop features live music from local musicians and USM music majors often get gigs. This Friday the 22nd features USM's Christopher Reiling, and Friday, September 29th, Erika Hansen will play. The third weekend of each month features a Live Music Weekend with acts playing Friday through Sunday.

The Grind recently joined Portland's Acoustic Coffee as an affiliate venue of the Maine Songwriter's Association (MSA), which owner Carson Lynch hopes will bring even more music to the atmosphere. The MSA is a non-profit member organization designed to support local musicians. This fall, Lynch wants to have an evening dedicated to MSA artists to help fur-

ther support local music. Each Wednesday the shop features acoustic open mic from 6-8 p.m. Sign-ups are open to everybody and available in the restaurant.

Not only are up-and-coming musicians given a showcase, but every six to eight weeks, the art exhibits on the wall change, featuring a different artist. Currently hanging are the paintings of Kristine Evans. "The exhibit has been a great opportunity, I love the feedback," said Evans, a Portland resident. "This has been awesome to show off some of my newer work to a different crowd. I think that small businesses are the key element to helping arts in the community. I think patrons like to go to small businesses and see local art on the walls."

The shop opens at 6:30 a.m. on the weekdays, early enough to serve busy commuters and students, and closes at 8 p.m. each night. They brew locally made coffee from Coffee by Design, with popular flavors like the robust dark roast, Black Thunder. CBD also makes a special dark roast for them called the Gorham Grind Blend. It's made from 3 dark roast coffees, two



PHOTO BY WADE LINEBAUGH

Gorham Grind, 18 South Street, (207) 839-3003.

African and one Latin American. More than coffee, the Gorham Grind serves a wide variety of teas, Italian sodas, smoothies, shakes and bottled beverages to please virtually any palate.

Lynch, a recent addition to the Gorham Business and Civic Exchange's Board of Directors, tries to sell local products "as much as possible." Nearly everything at the Gorham Grind

comes from local sources, including vendors in Portland, Standish, and Westbrook.

"Nothing makes me feel better than supporting local business," said Abra Mueller, a music major at USM. "And if something like Starbucks came in, I'd still go to the Gorham Grind." ♦

Media Whore

ALEX STEED

COLUMNIST

Media Whore is a weekly column that offers commentary on the state of popular media.

On the 9th of this month, LA's Daily Breeze website noted, "Gripping drama, fluffy sitcom added to fall line-up." A similar description could have accurately described what the President, Vice President and other propagandists brought to the 2006 season of September 11 anniversary coverage.

The media outlets handled the day with relative finesse. National Public Radio marked the anniversary with profiles of folks whose lives had been changed. They also ran stories that focused on the noted health hazard that first responders faced after 9/11.

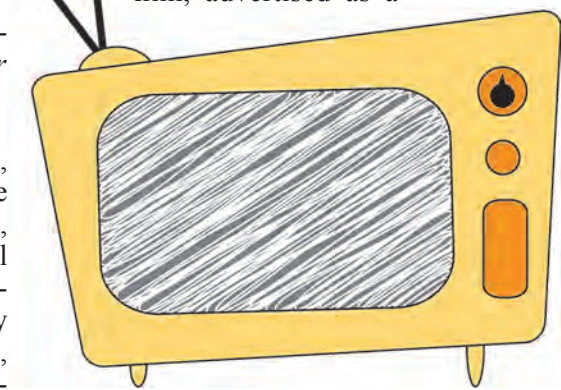
The New York Times remarked upon how it was smart of CNN to send Anderson Cooper to Afghanistan, not ground zero, for the fifth anniversary of 9/11. "It is the country where this all started," according to the Times. They later added, "All the new programs covered the anniversary with energy, respect and exhaustive detail."

Adding humor to the otherwise somber day, The Onion jokingly reported, "NYC Unveils 9/11 Memorial Hole."

Hijacking commemorations and stealing remarkable depth from the coverage, President Bush, Vice President Cheney and other influential members of the right wing tried to mold

our thinking and how we remember the day.

ABC ran "The Path to 9/11." The film, advertised as a



screen-adaptation of the 9/11 Commission Report, took "dramatic license" to make stuff up whenever they saw fit. One scene pretends that the Northern Alliance was once close to catching Bin Laden, if only the White House had approved. This never happened. Liberties such as these actually caused several technical advisors to quit the project.

I wasn't shocked to find out that ABC, which is owned by Disney, decided to fictionalize history. Add a talking animal and a Vanessa Williams soundtrack to the plot and we'd have another Pocahontas sequel on our hands.

The show, however, was less absurd than our very own President's "non-political" address to the nation after his day of remembrance. "I am often asked why we are in Iraq when Saddam Hussein was not responsible for the 9/11 attacks," he says. He answers with a clumsy, backwards explanation all too familiar: "Terrorists" and "threats" and "freedom" and all the other reasons that were served on his week-

long "Republicans are better than everyone in the foreign policy department," speaking tour.

No alternative to invasive and dangerous military action was offered. However, as columnist John Tierney has pointed out, "Bush was no match for the master of P. R.," Osama Bin Laden. When Bin Laden lies and dramatically exaggerates, he can at least motivate his base, instead of alienating them.

As entertaining as the aforementioned were, the fluffiest display was served up by my favorite bad-aimer, Vice President Dick Cheney. This long 9/11 weekend was brought into high gear by "Meet the Press," where our automaton second-in-command admitted to Tim Russert every mistake and blunder made during the war in Iraq. When asked if in hindsight he would still have made the same decision about invading Iraq, Cheney said he would. This makes me wonder what they mean when they reference "lessons learned" in Iraq. And all of this came to us on Sunday morning via the knowing, sneering Dick Cheney grimace that we have all come to know and loath.

And to imagine, I got all of this crap without even watching "The Game," "Brothers & Sisters," or "The View" now starring Rosie O'Donnell. Next year, perhaps ABC, President Bush and Vice President Cheney could leave the fluff to the fall line-up. ♦

Sport your spandex

This falls fashion resurrects the 80s

ANNE HOBBY

A&E EDITOR

Picking out clothes when you're a teenager should be fun; part of self-expression and all that good stuff my guidance counselor told me about. But where I grew up, self expression was out, Abercrombie was in. The year was 1996. It was August before my 6th grade year, and if you weren't wearing a label, kids-gone-fashion-nazis would assign one to you: dork, nerd, or loser. The fastest way to get all three of those labels was wearing tapered jeans to school. I smile now as I see the bigger picture. Half a generation later, high schoolers are wearing those same tapered jeans that labeled kids "dorks," and looking super cool.

Shopping with my mom back then, she was surprised to see low rise jeans with bell-bottoms, now called flares. "Fashions come back every twenty years," she explained to me, as if she was teaching me a great life lesson. The 90s were a rehash of the 70s, which made my mom feel old.

Ten years later, we're updating the 80s. I don't feel old but I am beginning to see the cycles of fashion my mom warned me about.

What is cool now will be "so last year" soon enough. Eventually it gets so old that it's "vintage" or "old school," and once again allowed into the upper echelons of the fashion hierarchy.

Vintage t-shirts are a prime example. Now that the 80s are coming back, the same t-shirts that people wore during that era are coming back. They even look like they really have been kicking around for twenty years. It's so not cool to wear your mom's old clothes, but now it's ok to wear new clothes that look like they could have been your mom's.

Over the past couple years I've been seeing the slow move into 80s land with off-the-shoulder sweaters and cut up jeans. (The difference is, in the 80's they bought jeans and cut them up at home, now we pay extra to have some low-wage workers in China cut them for us.) I knew the 80s were truly back when USM students proudly sported tapered jeans for the first day of school. Previously, tapered jeans were what your grandfather wore to do yard work. Home-schoolers wore them because they only had social interaction with their moms. And,

in the teenage world, tapered jeans were a one-way ticket to ridicule, plain and simple. But now they're back and I'll have to get used to it.

Always being a little bit behind, I'm still exploring the flared jeans phenomenon and I'm sort of getting attached. At least flats are back. It's hard to pull off four inch heels without the boot-cut pants. Along with these trends come the leggings, except this time they've been cropped for a modern look (or are we actually reverting farther back into the 60s?).

Only those who are extremely dedicated to their Pilates classes can get away with wearing leggings as pants. For everyone else, long sweaters and tunics are the answer to the question "How do I cover my ass?". At least we're past the bare-midriff craze of the late 90s.

The mini skirt is back as well and now you can wear it even if you've got cellulite to hide, thanks to the comeback of our forgotten friend: black leggings. I'm beginning to like where this is going as long as it doesn't lead to leg-warmers.

Men's fashion is finally changing as well, thanks to the emo scene. Pants are cut tighter and lower, and slip-on sneakers are making footprints all over town. We might call this "emo," but the inspiration seems so Billy Idol that it's practically plagiarism.

I like it. Girls, I know you want to show off your figures, but isn't it time we let the men have some of the fashion pains? Besides, the whole baggy pants thing is getting old anyway.

I guess that's why fashions change. Things get boring. People want a reason to buy new clothes every season. I guess it takes about twenty years for a pair of pants to go from cool to geeky to forgotten. When it's forgotten those people who decide what's hot and what's not, pick it up, dust it off, and reintroduce it as the greatest thing since, well, since the last time they showed us something "new."

The 80s are back, but I don't feel old yet. When the 90s come back I'll be discouraged, especially if anything that has to do with grunge becomes mainstream again. But I think I'll really begin to understand my mom's feeling of distaste when I take my 11-year-old daughter school shopping and see these fashions of 2006 coming back yet again. ♦

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You gotta check them out

The Decemberists rock the ballads

JOHN COONS
COLUMNIST

You know how there is this one artist or album that everyone would love if they just gave it a listen? This column addresses those bands and even asks for your suggestions.

With the birth of this column, my friends came up to me and demanded that I take on The Decemberists, an indie rock band from Portland, Oregon. Specially brought to my attention was their third full album “Picaresque,” which came out in 2005 on the Kill Rock Stars record label.

Before this week, pretty much all I had heard by The Decemberists was “July, July,” from their album “Castaways and Cutouts,” and 50 seconds of “The Mariner’s Revenge Song.” To be fair, I hadn’t really seen all that they could offer. “July, July” is almost as mainstream as The Decemberists get, and while I found the music fun, I didn’t think it anything spectacular. The short clip I heard from “Mariner’s Revenge” was on a crappy car radio that was drowned out by a friend practically foaming at the mouth ranting about how amazing the song was.

From the very first track of “Picaresque,” I was hooked. “The Infanta” offers driving rhythms

with a spectacular orchestration of instruments including horns, guitar, piano, and strings -- it was love at first listen. A mix of rock chords and Spanish fiesta sounds (along with a nifty use of the Neapolitan chord, aka, a major chord a half-step above the I chord), this lead track blew me away. It screams “CRANK ME UP!” With such a musically strong first track, it sets the bar pretty high for the rest of the album.

I was only 11% disappointed, and 89% “Oh freaking yeah” with the rest of the album.

The Decemberists seem to take one musical feeling per track and stick with it. 10 seconds in, you know the flavor of the whole song. This works for their albums because they turn out like a Jelly Belly sampler bag: plenty of flavors and most of them tasty. However, if you’re looking for songs that don’t repeat sections of harmonic ideas or use the same melody over and over with different words, it may have you digging the first 2 minutes of each of their songs, and then flipping to the next track, like many who suffer from musical ADD. The songs are not dynamically flat. The group continually adds extra layers of instruments and riffs, especially in their storytelling songs. For example “Mariner’s Revenge Song,” has a whimsical instrumental section complete with accordion, tuba and mandolin that differs from the other nine verses telling the Mariner’s tale.

This is not to say that a varied choice of instruments is



SOURCE: KILL ROCK STARS

The Decemberists dress up and rock out.

The Decemberists’ gimmick or their only selling point. The band offers borderline absurdist epics to rock out to, with a mix of childish grinning and random “what the fuck?” moments.

Specifically the aforementioned eight minute, forty-seven second “Mariner’s Revenge Song” or the colorful “The Infanta” are definitely my favorite tracks. Fun storytelling of bygone times and campy, yet intelligent lyrics are The Decemberists’ strengths.

While their introspective pieces are musically beautiful, there are other groups out there (Iron and Wine, Belle and Sebastian) that clearly outrank them. But there are a couple of choice songs to listen for on “Picaresque” if this is your style: “Eli, the Barrowboy” and “Of Angels and Angles.”

The album is then fleshed out with a few tracks that are more middle of the road as opposed to “loud and pounding” or “angsty and introverted.” A great example of this is their anti-war/satirical song “16 Military Wives.” Catchy and witty, the song (and the music video which can be seen online) remind me of the movie “The Royal Tenenbaums” in approach and sense of style, except with more of a plot.

So if I have all these great things to say about them, where does the 11% disappointment come in? Well, it started off so great that it was just so hard to live up to it’s beginning. The tracks get a little repetitive as the album goes on, but the originality of the overall sound more than outweighs this. Lead singer Colin Meloy’s voice is also an acquired taste that may turn some listeners

off at first with it’s nasal quality, but it later folds into the texture of the songs, and works out nicely.

All in all? I give The Decemberists 8.7 out of 10 flying dirigibles.

LISTEN TO: “The Infanta,” “Mariner’s Revenge Song,” “16 Military Wives”

GET THEM: decemberists.com, iTunes, Amazon.com. ♦

John Coons is a senior Music Education major who has performed with the Portland Opera, sings Jazz gigs, conducts two choirs, and was in a Queen tribute band. To say that he likes a wide variety of music is an understatement.

Send your “You Gotta Check Them Out!” To John Coons at john.coons@maine.edu and prepare to be “That Super-Fan” that introduced all the world to the musical glory of that awesome death metal/ska group, “Poker Playing Death-Grannies!”



Local shake Late night grub gets good

JENNIFER Z. FELDMAN
COLUMNIST

Late night eating in Portland just got a lot better. Meet Vignola. The Italian-inspired Old Port restaurant serves dinner seven nights a week until midnight and cocktails until close. And unlike most late night grub, Vignola serves up affordable dishes guaranteed to satisfy even the foodies in your entourage.

Vignola offers a cheese menu (\$5 per cheese or \$16 for 4), including selections from Maine, Italy and France. Cheese plates are served with fruit mostardo,

apricots in moscata and spiced nuts.

Other antipasti dishes are perfect for sharing, and all are priced between \$6 and \$13. You can score a hearth-oven baked pizza for \$12 or less. (Note: These puppies are big enough to split two ways.) Check out the fresh mozzarella, truffled cheese and Pio Tosini prosciutto pie. Mucho tasty.

Vignola’s décor is part hip, part quaint. Ivy trimmed windows look out onto Wharf Street and the dining room is a mix of exposed piping, wicker chairs and leather bar stools. And the place is lit by art deco-inspired fixtures made out of wine bottles.

Speaking of spirits, Vignola has an interesting selection of cocktails,

such as the Very Berry martini (\$10), served with a booze-saturated blackberry. Vignola also has an extensive wine and beer list.

Vignola is owned by Dan Kary and Michelle Mazur-Kary, the proprietors of the nearby eatery, Cinque Terre. The Karys also operate an organic farm, which supplies some of the restaurant’s produce. The rest comes from local purveyors like Freeport-based Laughing Stock Farm, Sunset Acres Farm, Mainly Poultry, Upstream Fishing and Grand View Farm.

Good booze, good grub and a social conscience: Vignola is a welcome addition to Portland’s food scene. ♦



PHOTO BY JEN FELDMAN

The ivy-trimmed windows of 10 Dana Street.

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Student Involvement & Activities Fair

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Portland Campus

Thursday, 9/21
11:30am-2pm

Luther Bonney Lawn

(Rain location—Woodbury Campus Center)

Gorham Campus

Tuesday, 9/26
8-10pm

Brooks Student Center

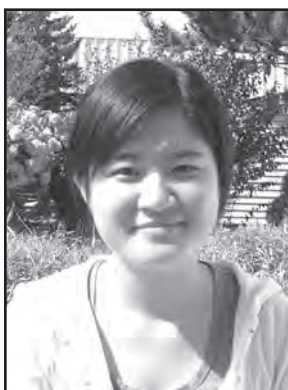
(Lower Level)



Question of the week

Photos and interviews by Ashley St. Michel

What's your favorite hot spot and why?



Wenjing Chen
ESL

"I like to go to the Maine Mall. Girls all love to shop, and my house is close to the mall."



Kostyantyn Olefirenko
Criminal Justice

"I like to go bowling just about anywhere. I am good at the game and I usually win."



Sam Walton
Athletic Training

"My room is my favorite place to be. I always have a lot of people over to hang out."



Brendan Rizza
Political Science

"Fort Williams. I just like relaxing, looking at nice scenery, and Fort Williams is also a nice place to study."



Kyle Sturdivant
Political Science

"I don't really have one favorite hot spot. There are so many. I just like to go and do everything around town."

Meet Joe Student

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

Aleks Kazimierczak

Gorham Lewiston Auburn Portland

HOMETOWN: Glen Rock, New Jersey

MAJOR: Nursing

YEAR: Senior

USM CARD

Have you had any near-death experiences?

I was born in Poland with a hernia, and it was cheaper to be treated there, so we stayed for a few extra days. The plane we were supposed to fly back to the U.S. on actually crashed, so the hernia saved my life!

If you could be the best in the world at one particular thing, what would it be?

Arguing, to make good points on the spot because I can never think of what to say at the time.

What's the weirdest food combination you like to eat?

I like to make scrambled eggs with strawberries!

Would you rather be very rich, yet despised by many, or poor, yet revered by many?

Poor, because that's what I am now and it's not so bad.

What are you looking forward to doing today after you're done with classes?

I'm going to take my dog for a long walk and take a weight-lifting class at Balley's.

This interview is now complete. How would you rate this interview on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the coolest interview ever?

Since it's been my only interview ever, I'd have to give it a 10! ♦

*Have a question you want answered?
Send it to freepress@usm.maine.edu*

What is your goal here at USM?

To graduate before I hit ten years.

Are you involved with any on-campus organizations or are you planning to join one?

No, and no.

If you could be anywhere else right now, where would you be?

I would be in Poland, visiting with my family.

If you could be talking with anybody in the world, who would it be?

George W. Bush, so I could ask him what he's thinking!

If you could have any super-power, which would you choose?

Flying, definitely!

IF YOU SAVE A HERO WHAT DOES THAT MAKE YOU?

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Crossword

By JOSEPH R. THOMPSON

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Across

1. Actor Wilson
5. Second thing a clock says
8. Liquid plumber
9. A grown up filly
10. Ice house?
11. Things that lay rubber?
12. Cool
13. Horns
15. Fourth book of the Mormon Bible
17. Playground taunt with “too”
18. Playful animal
20. Gamer article that began as a deliberate typo
21. A thick slice
25. Weasley attribute
29. Cajun music revivalist LeJune
30. More naked
31. Give out
33. Frosted
34. Said with the v-sign
35. Sea shell seller
36. First thing a clock says

Down

1. Heart, lung or epidermis
2. One of Maine’s poorest counties
3. Music man Brian
4. Cozy space
5. The Hawaiian take on the potato
6. Fox’s family movie “Rebound” star Williams
7. The space between an outer rail and the edge of the track-bed or permanent way structure.
8. A ___ emergency
9. Sodas for cocktails or things that blend sounds
11. The weight of the packaging or container
14. Martial art from India
16. If one is so opinionated to another’s personality that he/she is a complete ass to that person as in “He ___ everyone here” (Urban Dictionary).
19. Eye drop?
22. Purple shade
23. “I am ___” Simon and Garfunkel song
24. Eight bits
25. Important baseball stat
26. Per
27. Scottish for suffer
28. Estatic
32. Garland of flowers

Cards and stars

By LEMMA LUCIFEROUS

Rather than just looking at the sky for some insight into your week, I, Lemma Luciferous, perform a single card tarot reading each week to see what challenges and blessings are approaching you during your journey through life.

r: retrograde, inverse

☹☹☹☹☹

On top of your game

☹☹☹☹

Things are going well

☹☹☹

Average week

☹☹

You have some work to do

☹

Time to reevaluate your game plan

ARIES (7 OF CUPS) ☹☹☹☹☹: In the words of the Rocky Horror Picture Show, “Don’t dream it, be it.” This is your anthem this week, Aries. That is to say, what you imagine has a strong likelihood of becoming reality. Just keep in mind this is true for both the good and bad you imagine. Dream carefully!

TAURUS (THE WORLD) ☹☹☹☹☹☹: Hey Taurus, stop looking at the sky and wishing for something to come your way – that’s for Aries this week. You, on the other hand, have the chance to experience the totality of the entire world. Right now! Here’s the trick: Don’t anticipate, participate.

GEMINI (8 OF CUPS r) ☹☹: The most beautiful and most often forgotten thing that came out of Pandora’s Box, Gemini, was hope. And this week, you have the gift of inspiring those around you with hope. Be patient when needy people come to you because the hope you share is helping to create a place of beauty in this world.

CANCER (5 OF CUPS R) ☹☹☹: The position of this five, Cancer, indicates a level of stagnation in your life. You’d be well advised to find an Aquarian leader to team up with. New projects will have a way of clearing out those physical, emotional, mental and spiritual cobwebs.

LEO (9 OF SWORDS)☹: Okay Leo, this is your week to feel blue and down. Why? This week, anything from your past that you lost and haven’t grieved for yet will want your attention. Drop the bravado, cry a little and then let it go.

VIRGO (STRENGTH)☹☹☹☹☹: You know that feeling of being able to change the world that you woke up with this morning, Virgo? It’s because you can. This week the universe is giving you the strength to alter anything in your life, and others, that needs changing.

LIBRA (QUEEN OF PENTACLES) ☹☹☹☹☹: This week, Libra, you may experience an interesting phenomena: There is a direct relationship between how wealthy you are and feel and how generous you are to those around you. This is one way the queen, the personification of the cups suit, manifests itself.

SCORPIO (10 OF RODS) ☹☹☹☹☹: Last week you started a project with that burst of clarity you had. Now, it’s a matter of persevering even though the thrill of novelty is gone. Just remember, the rewards are worth it if you stick it out. Even though you may not be able to see the goal, it’s not far and it’s the journey that really counts.

SAGITTARIUS (KNIGHT OF RODS) ☹☹☹: This is a complex card, Sagittarius. On one hand it recognizes the value of your intense drive and ability to take quick action. But, it also speaks to the importance of you acknowledging and accepting the choices and paths taken by others as you mature.

CAPRICORN (JUDGEMENT) ☹☹☹: High levels of meditation are in order for this week, Capricorn. While hard work and accomplishment are important on this plane, you need to start spending time with your spiritual self. Listen to your inner voices, get to better know your cosmic persona.

AQUARIUS (THE CHARIOT) ☹☹☹☹☹: All of those gray areas that have been frustrating your ethical and integral sensibilities will clear up this week, Aquarius. You’ll find that not only can you accomplish great things by working closely with a Cancer this week, but it will be a great help to the Cancer who is feeling a bit stuck.

PISCES (4 OF RODS) ☹☹☹☹☹: This week, Pisces, you’re being invited to experience happiness. What is it that makes you happy? Do you really know? If so, then what are you waiting for? Find it, hold it. Nothing in this world is permanent, so enjoy happiness while you can.

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Sudoku

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see SUDOKU, on page 9

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Students get free classified ads!

SUDOKU, from page 12

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SOLUTIONS, from 9.11.06 issue

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- Ads must be received the Thursday before publication.

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www.usm.maine.edu/health

Division of Student & University Life: Supporting student learning and success.

Offensive woes plague women's soccer

Huskies record suffers in weekend defeat

CHASE KUECH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The USM women's soccer team welcomed St. Joseph's College and the Coast Guard Academy into town this weekend looking to find some offensive firepower on their home turf, but left with two losses, no offensive answers, and an unexpected defensive question mark.

The Husky offense has scored a total of six goals in

five games so far this season. Five of those goals came in a 5-0 blowout of the University of New England in Biddeford, leaving the Huskies shutout in three of five games.

In an attempt to find some answers to their lacking defense, the Huskies shifted their starting line-up and made some formation changes. However, these efforts fell short, as the team woke up on Monday with just one goal and two losses over the weekend.

"We were trying not to let the heat get the best of us," Freshman mid-fielder Nicolette Greene said. "And it was difficult to relax after we were informed we'd be going into the weekend with a new formation. Needless to say, it was a very rough weekend."

To make matters worse, starting goaltender Mindy Morneault's playing status is now unknown as she suffered a leg bruise against the Coast Guard Academy. Although the loss of Morneault may make

things difficult both defensively and offensively for the team, the Huskies find most of their depth in goal keepers. Sophomore Cyndi Michaels replaced Morneault in goal on Sunday, and will continue to be the starter as long as Morneault remains sidelined.

"We graduated key offensive players but we are strong defensively," first year head coach Lisa Petruccelli said. "We are a young team with many players getting their first real taste of soccer on the col-

legiate level. It just takes a little time to adjust, but we are on the right path and it's only a matter of time until we achieve the success we're looking for."

Thankfully, time is something Petruccelli has plenty of, with only a handful of seniors on the team and plenty of youth to mold and develop. Unfortunately, experience is something that can only be gained with time, so patience will have to be a virtue shared across the USM campus. ♦

Husky scoreboard

Men's Soccer: (4-2-0)
9/12 – USM 3, St. Joseph's 0
9/14 – USM 3, UMaine Farmington 2

Women's Field Hockey: (0-5)
9/12 – New England College 3, USM 0
9/14 – Bates College 4, USM 0

Women's Tennis: (0-3)
9/12 – Colby College 9, USM 0
9/14 – Bates College 9, USM 0

Women's Volleyball: (3-4)
9/12 – University of New England 3, USM 0

Women's Soccer: (1-4-0)
9/10 – U.S. Coast Guard 1, USM 0

Men's Golf:
9/11 – USM placed 13th out of 15 teams at Bowdoin Invitational

9/13 – USM placed third our of eight teams at Terrier Invitational at Thomas College

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Game schedule

| DAY | DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|------|------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Tue. | 9/19 | Women's Tennis @ Salem State | 3:30 p.m. |
| Tue. | 9-19 | Men's Soccer vs. BOWDOIN | 4:30 p.m. |
| Tue. | 9-19 | Volleyball @ Bates | 7:00 p.m. |
| Thu. | 9-21 | Field Hockey @ UMF | 4:00 p.m. |
| Sat. | 9-23 | Women's Cross Country @ Boston | TBA |
| Sat. | 9-23 | Golf @ Waterville | 12:00 p.m. |
| Sat. | 9-23 | Volleyball @ Plymouth State | 12:00 p.m. |
| Sat. | 9-23 | Field Hockey vs. Plymouth State | 1:00 p.m. |
| Sat. | 9-23 | Men's Soccer @ Keene State | 1:00 p.m. |
| Sat. | 9-23 | Women's Soccer vs. Keene State | 1:00 p.m. |
| Sat. | 9-23 | Women's Tennis vs. Rhode Island | 1:00 p.m. |

Husky Hero



Nicolette Greene

Year: Freshman Major: English
Sport: Soccer Position: Midfield

Why did you choose USM?
Well I can't say that USM was my first choice, but when the college search and acceptance period started to get rocky USM seemed like a good choice because it has good English and Music programs and I thought I would have a good opportunity to play soccer.

What is your favorite part about USM athletics?
I love the soccer team here and everyone I've met since the first day has been very nice and helpful and have welcomed me with open arms.

What other hobbies do you enjoy?
I love music, both singing and playing the piano, basketball, softball, theater, and basically any outdoor activity

Who do you give thanks to?
I owe everything to my parents and my little brother. My entire family, all of my friends from home and the new ones I have met so far here at USM. Also, Mr. McClure (an old basketball teacher) and Lise Dunn (my former music teacher).

Any pre-game rituals?
No real pregame rituals I guess, but I tend to bite my lip when I get nervous. Apparently I do it all the time anyway.

Who is your personal athletic hero?
I've never really considered anyone a personal athletic hero, but if I had to pick anyone it would be my dad. He isn't world famous or anything, but he knows what he is talking

about when it comes to sports and he has always been a great coach and fan.

Anything else you would like us to know about you?
Just please come out and support not only the Women's Soccer team, but all USM athletics. We love seeing fans at our games.

COMPILED BY CHARLES KUECH

Meet new people, sweat a little Intramurals kick off

ASHLEY ST. MICHEL

SPORTS EDITOR

Open Gym

Every Sunday - Tuesday
8 p.m. - 11pm

Flag Football Sign up

September 13th @ 7 p.m. Room 102 Hill Gym

Flag Football Season Begins

September 17th

Dodge Ball Tournament

October 2nd

Ultimate Frisbee Tournament

October 23rd

Volleyball Sign up

October 30th @ 7p.m.
Room 102 Hill Gym

Volleyball Season Begins

November 6th

Ping Pong Tournament

November 27th

Club Sports

Cycling Meeting
September 19th @ 7p.m.
Room 102 Hill Gym

Hockey Meeting

September 20th @ 6 p.m.
Room 102 Hill Gym

Dance Team Meeting

September 20th @ 7p.m.
Room 102 Hill Gym

Volleyball Meeting

September 27th @ 7p.m. Room 102 Hill Gym

Questions?

Contact Bob Prince at
(207) 780-5649 or email rprince@usm.maine.edu

Compiled by Ashley St. Michel



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UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE



Woodbury Campus Center in Portland

Bleecker St. Bakery Café & Pura Vida Espresso Bar

Thursday, September 21 at 3 p.m.



BLEECKER ST.



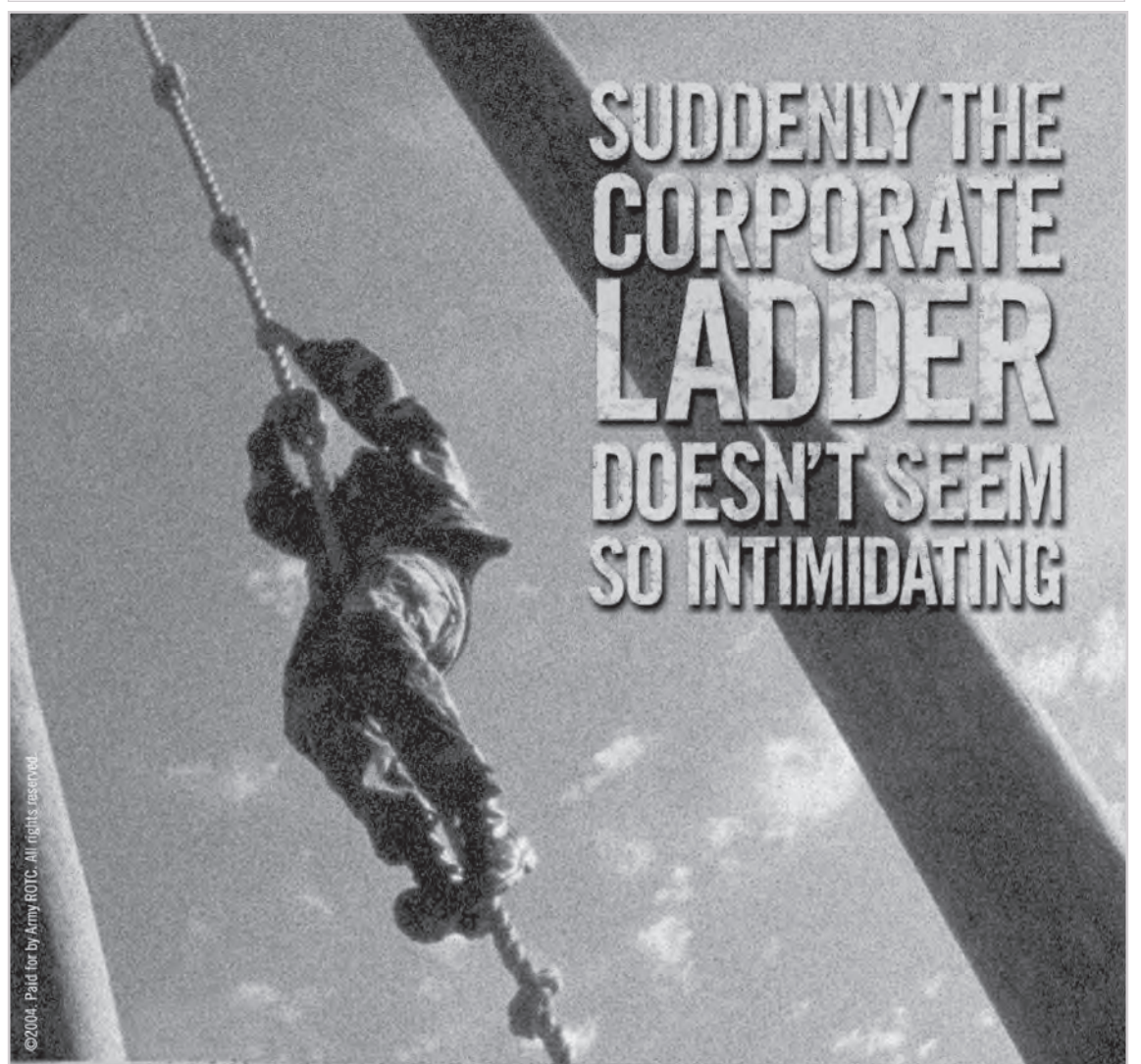
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Cafeteria Area

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www.peacecorps.gov

USM student's safe haven

Health Services offers medical attention and advice

ASHLEY ST. MICHEL
SPORTS EDITOR

Ann Conley may see only 20 students a day, but as a nurse practitioner and director at University Health Services, Conley may be one of the most important people students could encounter at the University of Southern Maine.

“Health Services is a bridge between the school nurse and the traditional health care office,” Conley said. “We spend a lot of time with students helping to diagnose and explain their current situation.”

The University Health Services clinic is a student’s safe haven from flu bugs and germs flying around and inhabiting our campus. No matter what you do, precautions you take, or vitamin pills that you pop, nothing can deter the USM virus from making its way into your immune system.

With five certified nurse practitioners, one doctor and a new licensed psychologist, Health Services can diagnose and treat acute health prob-

lems, chronic diseases, order diagnostic tests, and prescribe medications in an effort to prevent serious medical emergencies from occurring.

Health Services has two locations, one on the first floor of Upton Hastings in Gorham and one in the trailer located between Portland’s Sullivan Sports Complex and the Woodbury Campus Center.

Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Tuesday 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. students may seek refuge, by calling to make an appointment in the welcoming atmosphere of flu-killing specialists. Whether you are suffering from allergies or influenza, Health Services can help you.

“We want to help students access health care for themselves,” Conley said.

And what can be better than something that is free? Those students who are enrolled at USM with six credits or more can see any of the nurses at the clinic free of charge since Health Services is paid for by students’ \$40 health fee. What does this fee get you? Unlimited office

visits at both the Portland and Gorham Health Services, 12 visits per academic year at University Counseling Services, a travel clinic, and reduced cost of annual OB/GYN and physical exams. The University Counseling services are also available to students who may feel anxiety, depression or just want to talk to someone. Christine Bertini, Health Services’ newest certified psychologist, is available by appointment. Counseling services cannot disclose information unless they feel that the student may be harmful to themselves or others. Along with these services, the clinic also offers services in men’s health, birth control, emergency contraception, STD testing, anonymous HIV testing, LGBTQI health, state required immunizations, lab services, flu shots, Hepatitis A&B immunizations, Meningitis immunizations, nutrition counseling, and health education. Some of these services will come at a minimal cost.

Conley also added that students could bring other students with them to their office visits, or have Health Services

call their parents, as long as they are willing to sign a confidentiality release.

Although the clinic is not open on weekends, it has an after-hours health advice hotline. If you become ill over the weekend, you can talk with a professional nurse and discuss your issue. If your issue is serious enough to need immediate attention, the hotline nurse will ask you to get to the nearest hospital, usually Brighton FirstCare or Maine Medical Center. If you are a student living on campus and don’t have a mode of transportation to the hospital, Health Services will ask if you can find a ride, either with a friend, your Resident Assistant or the Resident Director. Health Services will also call an ambulance if necessary. ♦

For more information please call:

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(207) 780-5411 (Gorham)
(207) 780-4656 (TTY) or
www.usm.maine.edu/health

Searching for a win

Women's tennis faces uphill battle

ASHLEY ST. MICHEL
SPORTS EDITOR

Until last week, when a few more students joined, the USM women’s tennis team consisted only of six players and one new coach. Aside from being small, the team is also young, with four freshmen, three sophomores and two juniors. One of the juniors, Ashley Kirkpatrick (Sanford) is the only player who has returned to play for new head coach Lori-Ann Towle.

“Aside from the few matches that Ashley Kirkpatrick played in last season,” Towle said, “This is the first time each of these players has competed on the collegiate level.”

Another troubling factor for the team: injuries. Junior Sara Willey (Windham) was unable to play in her singles match against Colby College on Tuesday, September 12, after she injured her upper thigh. This was a bit of a set back for the Huskies, since she was ranked number two on the team. Freshman Heidi Graceffa (Calais) also complained of



The girls practice their skills at the net.

pain in her wrist during the match and after seeing the sports trainer came out onto the court with a taped wrist and forearm.

“When the players get down, I remind them to focus on the here and now,” Towle said. “I remind them that the score of the new set is 0-0. It’s anybody’s match.”

So far this season, the team has lost both of the matches, in two 9-0 sweeps, that they have played. But the players didn’t let their losses cut them down. Those who were no longer playing, could be heard cheering for their teammates. The team has yet to forget about support.

“We’ve done several team bonding activities during pre-season,” Towle said. There was the time they went to the apple orchard, the ice cream shop, had a cookout, their movie night and put up posters together around campus about joining their tennis team.

Towle added that the team has some areas they need to improve upon before they can move forward.

“We are looking to get our doubles teams to a point where they are playing more as a unit, and become more aggressive,” Towle said.

Towle may just be the coach that women’s tennis was looking for. She came to the USM tennis team with 27 years

of experience both in coaching and in playing. She began playing the game at age six, and was an All-State player in high school. Towle went on to play tennis at Bowdoin College before she transferred and played for the USM team. While she was attending USM, she also served as director of the summer recreation tennis program and coached the varsity girl’s tennis team, both in South Portland. More recently, she served as the head coach of Women’s Tennis at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, for seven years, and coached the girl’s high school team at Columbia Independent School in Missouri. Towle also won the Missouri State Games Women’s Open Singles Championship in 2004.

With only nine players and plenty of time for adjustment and improvement, a 0-2 record may be quite deceiving in the end.

“Every match, I look for us to win more games than the last,” Towle said. “And eventually, with their hard work, we will see a W.” ♦

Husky highlights

Golf takes third

Junior Adam Belleville (Ludlow, Mass.) scored an 80 to lead the Huskies Golf team to a third place finish amongst eight teams competing at the 2006 Terrier Invitational at the Samoset Resort in Rockport on Tuesday, September 12. The Huskies finished with four players who all placed around 80-84 for a total score of 327. Husson College won, scoring a 306 and Bowdoin College took second with a 314.

Nor'easters top Southern Maine 3-0

University of New England women’s volleyball outside hitter Rachael Seawards (Rollinsford, N.H.) recorded a double-double with 11 kills and a team-high 14 digs to lead the Nor’easters to a 3-0 win over the Huskies on Tuesday, September 12. Sophomore Shannon Stoll (Shrewsbury, Mass) pulled together a solid effort with six kills, six solo blocks, four service aces, and two assists. Sophomore Cassi Sticht (Meredith, N.H.) led the Huskies defensively with 17 digs.

New England College sticks it to USM

New England junior Field Hockey forward Brittney Vogrin (Toronto, Ontario) scored a pair of first-half goals to lead the Pilgrims to a 3-0 win over the Huskies on Tuesday, September 12. Southern Maine freshman goalkeeper Allie Hill (Cape Elizabeth) played well in net, making 15 saves.

Men's soccer defeats St. Joseph's

Freshman men’s soccer forward Josh Amoroso (Gorham) scored a pair of goals to lead the Huskies to a 3-0 victory over the St. Joseph’s College Monks. Amoroso, playing his first match this season, scored the first time he touched the ball in the 42nd minute. Senior goalie Chris Willard (Willimantic, Conn.) ended the game with four saves.

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